

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Miscellaneous Military Information	DATE DISTR.	17 March 1953
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	12 25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REQUIREMENT	
		REFERENCES	25X1

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Order of Battle:

(a) Units

Date	Unit	Subordination	Location	CO
Sep 52	u/i Inf Div	unk	Kolin /5002N-1512E/	unk
Sep 52	u/i Inf Div	unk	Pilsen (Plzen) /4945N-1322E/	unk
1950 (hearsay)	u/i Div	unk	Hradec Kralove /5013N-1550E/	unk
1949	u/i Mecz Div	unk	Budejovice /4859N-1428E/	unk
Sep 52	u/i Cav Regt	unk	Pardubice /5002N-1547E/	unk

Brig. Gen. Vilem Sacher was CG of the Inf Div in Kolin until 1950, when he was purged.

Lt. Gen. (fmu) Rytir was CF of the Inf Div in Pilzen until 1951. In September 1952 he was Chief of Staff of the I. Mil.Dist. in Prague.

The Mecz Div in Budejovice was formerly commanded by Lt. Gen. Bohuslav (Bohumil) Lomsky.

ARMY review completed.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		
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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "X" 25 YEAR RE-REVIEW)

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(b) Schools, Institutes, Hospitals

Military Chemical Research Institute in Zemianske Kostolany
 /4841N-1832E/. [redacted] 25X1

Military Medical School in Hradec Kralove - part of the Regular Medical Academy. All instructors in the Military Medical School were given army commissions in 1950. [redacted] 25X1

Military Technical School in Brno /4912N-1638E/ - GCS for those cadets who chose to remain in the army as engineer, communications, or CW officers. [redacted] 25X1
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General Staff School (Vysoka Valeca Skola) in Prague. The course lasted for three years and most of the 100 student officers were of field grade.

Military Academy in Hranice /4933N-1744E/. There were three to four thousand officer candidates in the school. Commissions were granted in all branches.

Jan Ciska Officers' Preparatory Schools (Skola Dorasta Duseinikov), for youths 14-18 years old, were located in various u/i towns in the CSR. Graduates of the schools later attended the Military Academy in Hranice. 25X1

Military Hospital in Praha-Vorechovka. [redacted]

(c) Supply Depot

Military Supply Depot in Prelouc /5002N-1534E/. [redacted] 25X1
 the depot had spare parts for cars and machinery.

(d) Training Areas

Kynsart Lazne (Bad Koenigswart) /5001N-1238E/ and the nearby Cisarsky Woods (Cisarsky Les) were both off limits to civilians. It was common knowledge that those were maneuver areas, occupied by u/i troops throughout the year. 25X1
 details on the training.

Restricted area between Banska Bystrica /4844N-1909E/ and Lubenek /4820N-1940E/ in Slovakia. An employee of the Ministry of Chemical Industry was an amateur entomologist. [redacted] he accidentally wandered into this troop-training area while hunting for insects and was arrested by the SSB. He was detained for 48 hours, until the SSB phoned the Ministry of Chemical Industry and other pertinent establishments and established his identity. [redacted] 25X1
 25X1

Artillery Range in Milevice /5014N-1454E/

(e) Border Guard (Pohranična Stráž, PS) Bn in Tachov /4948N-1238E/.

[redacted] no major alterations in Czech OB since 1946.

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2. Table of Organization and Equipment:

Minister of National Defense - Dr. Alexej Cepicka

First Vice Minister, also Chief of General Staff - Gen. Kratochvil

Second Vice Minister, in charge of personnel, education, and security - Gen. Genet Hruska.

Third Vice Minister, in charge of supply. Present incumbent unknown. Until the end of 1951 the position was held by Lt. Gen.

Lastovicka

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The following departments were subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense:

Legal, Cadre, and Medical Departments were [redacted] all 25X1 under the control of the Second Vice Minister.

The Supply Department and the department for coordination with industry were [redacted] under the control of the Third Vice 25X1 Minister.

3.

4. Manpower:

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(a)

(b) [redacted] students were deferred [redacted]

(c) The required term of service for the Army, Air Force, and Border Guards was two years.

(d)

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each reserve officer had to attend five terms of training, each of which lasted three weeks. Some officers, however, were recalled for two terms in the course of a year, and others for only one term in two or three years.

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(e) [redacted] young reserve officers, who were accepted 25X1 as being politically reliable by the regime, were offered promotions when they signed up for five-year tours of active duty. They were told that had they not volunteered, they would have been required to serve in a rank lower than that held formerly when recalled. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] most of them were assigned to technical branches such as the GWS, the Corps of Engineers, and the Signal Corps. All reserve officers were screened by a military political commission in the period beginning with the end of 1950 and lasting to the end of 1951. Those considered to be politically unreliable were either demoted or dismissed from the military service. [redacted]

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(f) [redacted] a secret order was issued to all factories in February 1952 which listed all reserve officers and EM in their employ. The report specified which of the reservists held critical or key positions and [redacted] those not in key 25X1 positions would probably be recalled immediately in case of an emergency. [redacted]

[redacted] since the army had priority over everything else in the CSR, the reserves would be adequately supplied to meet an emergency. [redacted]

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5. Soviet Mission:

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(a) [redacted] Soviet officers of the ranks of lieutenant to colonel in Prague. [redacted] 25X1 there were Soviet advisers in all army HQ at division and higher levels. There were also many Soviet persons dressed in civilian clothes who were advisers to various ministries. At its top level, the Ministry of Chemical Industry had six Soviet civilian advisers, all of whom were chemists and organizers.

(b) No Soviet troops were stationed in Czechoslovakia. It was widely known that the Soviet embassy in Prague had a very large staff and was the center of MGB and other Soviet staffs. The Splendide Hotel at #3 Zorenecka Street, Prague 7, was entirely occupied by Soviet citizens in civilian clothing 25X1 and their families. The hotel was off limits to all Czechs, [redacted]

[redacted] A family, who lived in the Vorechovka district in Prague in the vicinity of the military hospital, was evicted from its apartment for being violently anti-Communistic. There were rumors that a number of families in that district were, or were to be, evicted. According to rumor, the vacated apartments were to be occupied by Soviet families.

(c) [redacted] Soviet training and organization 25X1 in the Czech army, [redacted] following changes:

- (1) Shoulder boards had been changed to conform to the Soviet pattern.
- (2) Close order drill and the manual of arms. [redacted]

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[redacted] were more after the Soviet pattern.

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- (d) During the May Day parade in Prague [redacted] about 100 JS-3 tanks. [redacted] 25X1

(e)

(f)

[redacted] in case of war the Czech Army would most likely be sent to the USSR and there be integrated into the Soviet Army. [redacted] 25X1
 Soviet and Satellite troops, probably Rumanian, would defend the CSR.

- (g) It was common knowledge that MGB agents were in the CSR, either at the Soviet Embassy or the Splendide Hotel [redacted] 25X1

- (h) The main railroad route between the CSR and Poland was as follows: Prague - Pardubice /5002N-1547E/ - Olomouc /4935N-1715E/ - Ostrava /4950N-1817E/ - Bohumin /4955N-1820E/, terminating in either Cesky Tesin /4945N-1837E/, or Petrvvaldik /4943N-1808E/.

- (i) The main railroad route to and from the USSR was as follows: Prague - Brno /4912N-1638E/ - Bratislava /4809N-1707E/ - Kosice /4842N-2115E/ - Cerna nad Tisou /4844N-1407E/. [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Cerna nad Tisou had both the Soviet five-foot wide tracks and the Czech 4' 8" wide tracks and extensive reloading facilities.

6. Purges:

In 1948 and 1949 most officers who had, during World War II, served with Czech forces stationed in France, England, or the Middle East were purged. Later, most officers who were in the International Brigade in Spain fell from grace, because of a plot involving Otto Sling. General Sling was the Secretary of the Communist Party in Moravia. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] He was arrested, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Clementis, and Svermova, widow of the former Secretary General of the Czech Communist Party, for conspiracy against the Czech Government.

In 1951 most Czech officers who had served outside Czechoslovakia were purged. This group included the majority of those who had served in the USSR with the Czech Forces under Ludvik Svoboda, who was purged in 1951. [redacted] many older officers were purged in order to dismiss them without pension rights. [redacted] the following general officers [redacted] were purged: [redacted]

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(a) Arrested:

- (1) Lt. Gen. Josef Reicin, former OBZ Chief and Vice Minister of National Defense in charge of personnel, education, and security. He was arrested in 1951 for treason [redacted]

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- (2) Gen. Vaclav Bocek, Chief of Staff from 1945 to 1949.
He was dismissed in 1949

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He was arrested for an unknown reason in 1952

- (3) Lt. Gen. Buno Zapletal was, until 1951, Chief of the Supply Department of the Ministry of National Defense. He was dismissed by Alexej Cepicka because of thefts and corruption by subordinates in the army supply organization. He was reported arrested in 1952

25X1

- (4) Lt. Gen. (fmu) Ressl was Chief of Artillery, General Staff, until 1951. He was arrested for treason in 1951 and was still in the Opava Military Prison in September 1952.

- (5) Lt. Gen. (fmu) Janousek was, until 1948, CG of the Czech Air Force. He was captured at the border in an attempt to flee just after the coup d'etat in 1948 and was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

- (6) Maj. Gen. (fmu) Kutlvassr was arrested in 1949 for conspiracy against the Czech regime and was in the Opava Military Prison in September 1952.

- (7) Maj. Gen. Vladimir Prikryl, a former CG of the Milevice training area, was arrested in 1949 for conspiracy and was sentenced to 19 years in prison.

- (8) Lt. Gen. (fmu) Pika was Deputy Chief of Staff until 1948 when he was arrested for conspiracy. He was executed by hanging in 1949.

- (9) Gen. Janoslav Prochazka was Vice Minister and Chief of the General Staff in 1950 and 1951. He was dismissed for unknown reasons in 1951 and afterwards taught "Marxism - Leninism" at the Plzen University. He was a close friend of Reicin, and therefore he has either already been arrested or will be arrested soon.

(b) General Officers Dismissed but not Arrested:

- (1) Gen. Ludvik Svoboda was Minister of National Defense from 1945 to 1951. It was believed that he was purged on account of Reicin, but he was removed only from his Ministry post. He was still a member of Parliament and the Czech Communist Party in September 1952.

- (2) Gen. (fmu) Klapalek, up to 1951, was CG of the First Military District in Prague. A close friend of Svoboda, he was dismissed right after, and because of Svoboda's removal. In September 1952, he was living in retirement in Prague.

- (3) Maj. Gen. Otto Vrbsky was Chief of the Legal Department, Ministry of National Defense, from 1948 to 1951. He was Reicin's legal adviser, and was dismissed following Reicin's arrest. In September 1952, he was working in Prague as Chief of the Legal Department of the Publishing House "Kniha".

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- (4) Maj. Gen. Frantisek Engel, was Deputy Chief of the Medical Department, Ministry of National Defense, up to 1951. He was a close friend of Reicin, and was dismissed following Reicin's arrest. In September 1952 he was practicing medicine as a private physician in Slapy near Prague. 25X1
- (5) Maj. Gen. Leopold Firt was, up to 1950, CG of the Prague Military Hospital. [redacted] only the acute shortage of physicians saved Firt and Engel from arrest.
- (6) Maj. Gen. Jaroslav Selner was a member of the General Staff up to 1951 (exact duty unknown). He was dismissed for reasons unknown [redacted] in 1951 and in September 1952 was employed as a laborer in an u/i factory. 25X1
- (7) Maj. Gen. (fnu) Esterak, who was Deputy Chief of the Legal Department, Ministry of National Defense, up to 1948, was dismissed in 1948 for reasons unknown [redacted]. In September 1952 he was living in retirement. 25X1
- (8) Maj. Gen. (fnu) Vacek was Prosecutor up to 1951. Because he was a close friend of Reicin, he was dismissed in 1951. In September 1952 he was in retirement [redacted]. 25X1
- (9) Lt. Gen. (fnu) Lastovicka was, up to the end of 1951, the Vice Minister of National Defense. He was dismissed [redacted]. 25X1
- (10) Gen. Josef Satorie was, up to June 1952, Chief of the Presidential Military Cabinet. The reasons for his dismissal and his whereabouts in September 1952 are unknown [redacted]. 25X1
- (11) Lt. Gen. (fnu) Spaniel was CG of the Second Military District (Litomerice) up to 1949. He was dismissed for having been Chief of Benes' Military Cabinet. He was living in retirement in September 1952.
- (12) Gen. Simon Drgac was Chief of Staff in 1949 and 1950. He was dismissed for reasons unknown [redacted]. 25X1
- (13) Lt. Gen. Vilem Sacher was, up to 1951, CG of an u/i Div in Kolin. He was dismissed for unknown reasons in 1950. [redacted]. 25X1

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7. Morale:

(a) Officers

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[redacted] information concerning present army morale.

- (1) Most officers who served with the prewar (1939) Czech army [redacted] had 25X1 been purged or shunted aside to insignificant assignments.
- (2) The officer corps had been screened for political reliability. Whereas before 1948 a good education and good financial conditions of a person's family were prerequisites for attending officers' school, after 1948 these very same qualifications disqualified him from attending officers' school. After 1948, officers had to be, regardless of education, of proletarian origin and politically acceptable members of the Communist Party, SDD, SCM, or Svaz Arm.
- (3) Because high ranking officers were purged, promotion has been rapid for Communist officers. Former ironworkers or shoe-makers became regimental commanders. They might not have possessed the necessary military training and experience, but they were loyal to the Communist regime.

(b) Enlisted Men

In contrast to the morale of the officer corps, that of the EM in the Czech army was poor. At least 50 per cent of them were anti-Communist; especially the farmers from whose families property had been taken away and communized into kolkhozes.

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[redacted]
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8. Paramilitary and Youth Organizations:

(a) Czech Youth Association (Svaz Ceske Mladeze - SCM)

The SCM, which was the Czech counterpart of the Soviet Komsomol, was for Czech male and female youths between the ages of 14 and 28.

25X1

youths who held membership in the SCM, [redacted] was constantly increasing. Every means was used to get the young people of the CSR to enroll in the SCM. Membership in the SCM was necessary in order to get a good job. Many members of the SCM, especially children of Communist office holders or sympathizers, had formerly been members of the "Young Pioneers", a Communist-sponsored organization, which,

[redacted] was for 25X1

children from eight to 14.

The SCM was not popular with the majority of Czech youths, because its members had to spend all of their free time participating in athletic training, or attending lectures, meetings, demonstrations, etc. Members of the SCM were also required to volunteer for various labor details, which usually helped with harvests or constructed roads. In Banska Bystrica, Slovakia, an entire new road, called "Silnice Mladeze" ("Road of Youth"), was built by volunteer SCM labor brigades. SCM brigades were engaged in the construction of a "Combinat" in Kuncice /4948N-1818E/, Slovakia.

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[redacted] all the Czech newspapers gave a great deal of publicity to the SCM work and published all of their accomplishments on economic projects.

[redacted] the SCM, as such, had no military training. SCM members working in factories might get para-military training as factory militia, but not as members of the SCM. The SCM did have extensive sports training and political indoctrination.

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[redacted] the majority of them were "paper members" only, having joined merely because of pressure or in order to gain possible advantages.

(b) Association for Cooperation with the Army (Svaz Arm or Svaz pro Spolupraci s Armadou)

The Svaz Arm is the outgrowth of the "Svaz Brannosti", (Association for Army Cooperation), an organization started in 1946 by Gen. Mikula Ferencek. Svaz Brannosti was an organization of young men and women, 18-30, who wore a uniform similar to that of the Boy Scouts and underwent paramilitary training in summer camps. Older men, usually ex-officers, were instructors. Svaz Brannosti, which was voluntary, did not have a large membership and was not very active militarily; its aim was mostly to promote interest in the army through exercise and emphasis on physical fitness.

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In the winter of 1951-1952, the Svaz Arm replaced the Svaz Brannosti. The Svaz Arm was a new organization, [redacted], had no camps or [redacted] 25X1 uniforms. It was composed of male and female volunteers, 18 years of age and up, and had older men as instructors. [redacted] 25X1 its members received paramilitary and extensive sports training. A drive was underway to recruit factory workers. Factory workers trained two hours daily (or twice weekly) [redacted] 25X1 the main emphasis was placed on physical fitness and sharpshooting. [redacted]

25X1

(c) Factory Workers Militia (Delnicka Militia)

This was an organization of factory militia who were armed with rifles and had target practice and military training in the evenings and on weekends. [redacted] 25X1

9. Passive AA Defense:

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[redacted] instructions were given in March 1952 by the Ministry of National Security to all other Czech industrial ministries to camouflage the roofs of factories which manufactured paints, chemicals, explosives, and heavy machinery by painting the roofs to look like gardens. According to hearsay, the Ministry of National Security also issued some sort of a program for [redacted] AA defense to be initiated in 1953, consisting of first aid. [redacted] 25X1

10. Czech Intelligence Services:

(a) CBZ

During World War II, the Czech army had a branch called "Polni Cetnictvo" (Field Police). This branch, charged with guarding PW's, maintaining troop discipline, traffic direction, etc, (the equivalent of US Provost Marshal and US Military Police), was under the CBZ. This branch, as the name "Polni" implies, was activated only in war and did not exist in peacetime.

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[redacted] It was the only agency which had authority to arrest army personnel. The CBZ also prepared the cases for prosecution against army personnel (for political or criminal offenses). Up to 1946, CBZ men were attached to units of brigade level and higher.

(b) SNB

The SNB was a regular police organization, distributed over all of Czechoslovakia, which had no connection with army or intelligence services, did not participate in army maneuvers, and had no military traffic control or military police functions. [redacted] 25X1

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(c) Border Control

[redacted] no fortifications on the Czech-Austrian border between Znojmo /4851N-1603E/ and Mikulov /4898N-1638E/ in Slovakia.

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Rumanian soldiers were stationed on the Czech-Austrian border as border guards, (sic).

11. Women in the Czech Army:

Women in the Czech army were supposed to join as volunteers for a tour of five years. They had ranks ranging from pvt. to lt.col. and worked as nurses, typists, doctors; did personnel, OBZ, communication, and supply work. They received the same pay as men in each respective rank and were uniformed.

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12. Chemical Warfare Information:

- (a) The Czech army had no separate branch for chemical warfare. CW troops belonged to the "Technical Groups" (Vojenska Technicka Sluzba) which consisted of the Signal, Engineer and Chemical Warfare troops.

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In 1946 Technical Group officers had plain brown lapel tabs and brown shoulder-boards, the same as for medical officers.

- (b) In 1946, the Ministry of National Defense had a department dealing with CW, radio and engineering, which was called "Industrial Department" and was headed by Gen. (fmu) Kosalitski, who retired in 1947 or 1948.

- (c) In 1950 Col. (fmu) Kohlik, of the Engineer Corps, was Chief of the Chemical Department of the Military Technical Institute (Vojensky Technicky Utvar - VTU) in Prague.

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Kohlik was a regular army officer until 1939. From 1939 to 1946, he worked in a chemical plant in Usti nad Labem /5040N-1402E/ and was recalled into the army in 1946.

- (d) [redacted] until 1946, the Technical University in Prague was the only place where CW training was given to army personnel. In 1952, there was a Military Technical School in Brno [See paragraph 1 b, above] which taught CW to officer candidates.

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- (e) [redacted] the chemical installation in Zemianske Kostolany /4841N-1832E/ mentioned in paragraph 1 b was a research Institute and not a factory. This belief is based on the fact that this installation was not subordinate to the Ministry of Chemical Industry, but to the Ministry of National Defense. All war gas factories were subordinate to Ministry of National Defense and not to the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

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- (f) [redacted] gas mask production was under the Ministry of Light Industry. Gas masks were manufactured in the "Fatra" factory at Napa Jedla /4910N-1732E/.

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(e) [redacted] Czech troops carried gas masks in cloth carriers. [redacted] 25X1

(h) The Czech Communist Party passed a resolution in May 1952 establishing a top priority for the manufacture of explosives, plastics, acids, and dyestuffs.

(i) [redacted] biological warfare propaganda disseminated by Czech newspapers was rejected by 90 per cent of the Czech population. 25X1

(j) [redacted] 25X1

Professor Dr. (fm) Malek, a very famous bacteriologist at the Prague University, was working on biological warfare and was quite frequently in the USSR. In the Summer of 1951, Malek led a scientific delegation which visited Moscow and Leningrad.

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